

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: REACTION TO BRITISH-IRISH DISPUTE ON SECURITY COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY LONDON IS REPORTING ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ASPECT OF THE CURRENT BRITISH-IRISH DISPUTE ON COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM, AS SEEN FROM BELFAST. IN TERMS OF PUBLIC REACTION, OPINION HERE OF COURSE ALREADY IS POLARIZED, BUT SINCE THE FEBRUARY 17 LA MON MASSACRE COMMENTARY FROM MAJORITY SPOKESMEN HAS BECOME VITRIOLIC. CRITICISM OF THE SOUTH EXTENDS FROM THE REPUBLIC'S ALLEGED SOFTNESS TOWARD THE PROVISIONAL IRA, AND ITS REFUSAL TO EXTRADITE WANTED TERRORISTS TO THE NORTH, TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S BROADER ASSERTION THAT BRITISH POLICY SHOULD SHIFT TO SUPPORT IRISH UNITY BY CONSENT. SOME OF THE CRITICISM GOES BEYOND REALITY, BUT MUCH OF IT RELECTS FEELINGS DEEPLY HELD BY MANY PEOPLE IN THE NORTH. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BELFAST "NEWS LETTER", A TWO-CENTURY OLD DAILY READ BY THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY, RECENTLY WAS TAKING A LOWER KEY APPROACH TO POLITICS. BUT MARCH 13 IT WROTE OF "LYNCH'S DOUBLE TALK," IN COMMENTING ON THE PM'S PROPOSAL FOR IRISH UNITY BY CONSENT: "HE SHOULD RESPECT OUR RIGHT TO REJECT
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HIS ADVANCES, AND, IF WE DO SO, HE SHOULD TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION OTHER THAN TO THINK OF AN EVEN MORE TEMPTING OFFER, AND ALWAYS APPROACH US DIRECTLY AND EXCLUSIVELY...BUT THE IRISH TRAGEDY IS THAT OUR UNBALANCED SOUTHERN 'LOVER' HAS BLARNEY ON HIS LIPS AND ULTIMATE COERCION IN HIS HEART, AND IS ON PAST RECORD AS SAYING THAT WE HAVE 'NO RIGHT' TO SAY 'NO.'" AND TWO DAYS LATER THE PAPER SAW AS "THE REPUBLIC'S HYPOCRISY"

ITS REFUSAL TO EXTRADITE TERRORISTS ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS.
WHEN AT THE SAME TIME "MR. LYNCH SEES THE CONSTITUTION IN NO
WAY AS A STUMBLING BLOCK TO IRISH UNITY."

3. FROM THE OUTWORKS OF THE UNIONIST CAMP, INDEPENDENT
UNIONIST MP JIM KILFEDDER REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED TO THE
DEFENSE SECRETARY THAT NATO FORCES BE DEPLOYED ON THE
BORDER: "NI IS THE ONLY PART OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNTRIES
WHERE THE CONFLICT, WHICH THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO GUARD AGAINST,
HAS ALREADY BEGUN." AND DEMOCRATIC UNION (IAN PAISLEY) DEPUTY
LEADER REV. WILLIAM BEATTIE DEMANDED THE CLOSURE OF THE
BORDER WITH THE REPUBLIC AND CUTTING RELATIONS: "NO REALISTIC
ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE BORDER SECURITY HAS EVER BEEN MADE BY MR.
MASON OR ANYONE ELSE. HE SHOULD SET HIS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER."

4. THE TOUGHEST, MOST MEANINGFUL LINE WAS TAKEN BY JOHN TAYLOR,
OFFICIAL UNIONIST SPOKESMAN ON EEC AFFAIRS AND FORMER STORMONT
HOME MINISTER. THE "NEWS LETTER" REPORTED THAT HIS MARCH 15
SPEECH WAS SENT TO THE SAME AMBASSADORS IN DUBLIN WHO HAD BEEN
BRIEFED ON THE UK-IRISH DISPUTE LAST WEEK. TAYLOR DEFINED AS
"SCURRILOUS" THE CAMPAIGN BY BOTH LONDON AND DUBLIN TO AVOID
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF TERRORISM, AND DESCRIBED
"THE NEW LYNCH REGIME" AS "SHAMEFUL AND DISHONEST." IT WAS
GUILTY OF MURDER AND DESTRUCTION IN ULSTER. MOREOVER, THE
"OBVIOUS ATTEMPTS OF THE FINE GAEL PARTY TO JUMP ON THE
REPUBLICAN BAND-WAGON" CAUSED SHOCK AND REVULSION IN ULSTER.
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THAT PARTY WAS THEREFORE "NOW AS UNRELIABLE AS FIANNA FAIL"
AS CONCERNS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.
TAYLOR THOUGHT COOPERATION AS NEIGHBORS WOULD BE A LONG
WAY OFF, AND A UNITED IRELAND UNTHINKABLE. HE SUGGESTED AS
THE BASIS OF A NEW APPROACH BY THE REPUBLIC TO ULSTER THE
EXTRADITION OF WANTED TERRORISTS, AND REMOVAL OF "ARROGANT
CONSTITUTIONAL CLAIMS OVER ULSTER." HE CONCLUDED ON THE
RELATIVELY UPBEAT NOTE THAT MR. LYNCH SHOULD "DEVELOP POLICIES
WHICH WILL GAIN ULSTER'S RESPECT RATHER THAN MOUTH OBJECTIVES
WHICH OFFEND EVERY TIME THEY ARE REPEATED."

5. MINORITY SPOKESMAN HAVE SAID LITTLE AND THEN TO DEFEND
THE REPUBLIC. AT A TIME WHEN IT IS WIDELY TAKEN FOR GRANTED
THERE WILL BE NO POLITICAL MOVEMENT UNTIL WESTMINSTER ELECTIONS,
BELFAST'S "IRISH NEWS" SAID SOMEWHAT UNREALISTICALLY THE
TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD MEET SOON TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
AND FACE "UP SQUARELY TO THE ISSUE OF IRISH UNITY, EVEN ON
A FEDERAL BASIS. AS IT IS, THE POUNDEROUS INTERTIA OF THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT MEANS THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN SIGHT -- WHICH IS NOT
HELPFUL IN ESTABLISHING PEACE."

6. FINALLY, FROM AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CAMP, PEACE PEOPLE

LEADER CIARAN MC KEOWN SEES A BASIC CHANGE IN THE WIND. WITH JACK LYNCH, HE OPINES, "YOU HAVE TO WATCH EXACTLY WHAT HE SAYS. AND YOU DO NOT FIND HIM SAYING 'BRITS OUT' -- EVEN IF THAT IS WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU HEARD HIM SAY." MC KEOWN APPLAUDS THE RECENT EMPHASIS ON STUDYING WHAT THE SOUTH CAN DO TO ENTICE THE NORTH TOWARD UNITY, AND SAYS THAT "STUDYING BEATS KILLING ANYDAY." MOREOVER, HE IS ENCOURAGED THAT ANDY TYRIE, "THE MOST ASTUTE OF THOSE PARAMILITARY LEADERS (LOYALIST UDA) WHO DO NOT HAVE TO GON THE RUN OR HAVE THEIR STATEMENTS SMUGGLED ABOUT," WANTS IN ON THE STUDY. "I'LL HAVE TALKS WITH JACK LYNCH -- AN HONEST MAN," SAYS ANDY BRAVELY."STOUT

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